

BASED ON THE HIT VIDEO GAME!

Suikoden™

幻想水滸伝



Suikoden III: The Successor of Fate :: Aki Shimizu

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THE SUIKODEN SERIES

Suikoden™

幻想水滸伝

Deep in the forest, Chris and Nash venture to the village of the Alma Kinan clan. Once there, Chris meets the spirit medium Yun, who has the ability to see the future, and has insight into Chris and her father. However, Yun is about to be sacrificed by the Alma Kinan in order to open a sacred seal. Will Chris be able to discover what lies ahead before her past is sealed for good?



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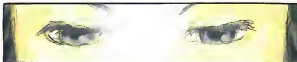
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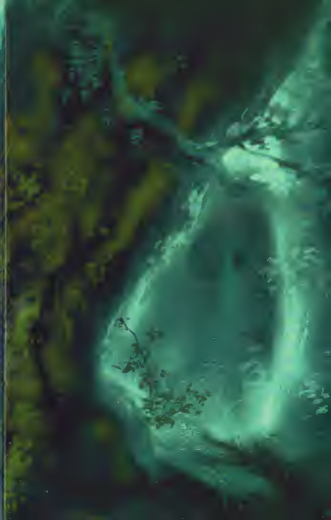
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MAYBE.
BUT FIRST,
WE'VE GOT
TO FIND
ALMA-
KINAN...

NASA, DO YOU
REALLY THINK
WE'LL FIND
INFORMATION
IN THE
KUPUT FOREST
THAT WILL
LEAD
TO MY
FATHER?





--THAT
THEY
ARE THE
GUARDIANS
OF THE
"WATER
ALTAR."

ALTHOUGH
I'D LIKE
TO HEAR
THEIR
PREDIC-
TIONS,
IT'S EVEN
MORE
IMPOR-
TANT--



ALMA-
KINAN?



IT'S THE
VILLAGE
WHERE THE
SHAMAN
WOMEN
LIVE.

IT'S SAID
THEY HAVE THE
POWER TO TELL
THE FATE OF
PEOPLE--AND
PERHAPS OF
THE WHOLE
WORLD. THEY
LIVE THEIR
LIVES HIDDEN
AWAY IN THESE
MOUNTAINS.



SO IF
WE GO
THERE,
WE CAN
LEARN
MORE
ABOUT
MY
FATHER



...BETWEEN
THAT ALTAR
AND THE
"TRUE RUPE
OF WATER"
YOUR
FATHER
CARRIES.

I'M SURE
THAT
THERE
IS SOME
CONNEC-
TION...

Suikoden


幻想水滸伝

.....successor of fate.....

Vol.4
by Aki Shimizu



HAMBURG // LONDON // LOS ANGELES // TOKYO



Story thus far...

The war between the Six Clans of the Grasslands and the Zexen Commonwealth dragged on far longer than either side expected. Tired of the seemingly pointless conflict, both parties sought a truce.

Lucia, chief of the Karaya Clan, sent her son Hugo to Vinay Del Zexay, while the Zexens sent Knight Captain Chris Lightfellow (a.k.a. the Silver Maiden) to the Grasslands. Almost immediately after the truce declarations, both sides appeared to be betrayed by their former enemies. The Lizard Clan reported that their leader had been secretly murdered by the Zexens, while Chris Lightfellow heard reports of the Grasslanders ambushing her forces.

Reluctantly, the Silver Maiden agreed to let her forces set fire to the Karaya village in order to create an escape route for her troops. While the Karaya village burned out of control, Hugo, his best friend Lulu, and the Duck Clan warrior Sgt. Joe returned and discovered Lady Chris in the midst of the chaos.

Enraged, young Lulu attacked Chris and--without thinking--the Knight Captain killed Lulu on the spot. Realizing their vulnerability, Sgt. Joe prevented Hugo from attacking Lady Chris and, in return, Chris spared both of their lives.

Hugo and Sgt. Joe eventually found the surviving members of the Karaya Clan taking refuge in the caves of the Lizard Clan. Shortly after Hugo bravely faced the awful task of telling Lulu's mother about her son's murder, he snuck away to seek his vengeance.

Aila and Jimba are two more Karayan warriors who are currently separated from their people. At the time of the attack, Aila was with Geddoo's visiting group of Harmonian mercenaries (who were looking for Jimba), but they were too far from the village and too few in number to be of any help. Rather than regroup with her people, Aila decided to accompany Geddoo in order to somehow avenge the destruction of her home.

Though physically unharmed by the battle, Lady Chris found herself mentally exhausted and plagued by guilty dreams of the recent massacre. An orphan, Chris lost her father to the flames of war at a young age, and she became a knight to honor his memory. Unfortunately, Chris realized that warfare was forcing her to ruin families the same way her own was wrecked...that the blood of all those she'd slain had tarnished the hands of the Silver Maiden...and that she could no longer remember her father's face.



Attempting to regain her composure, Chris joined the knight Percival for a festival in his hometown of Iksay, but the town soon came under attack by the Grasslanders. Surrounded by Grasslanders, Chris held her own in a one-on-one battle against Lucia. Before the battle could turn against her, Nash Clovis (a mysterious man who warned Chris of the impending attack) saved her by pitching both of them off a cliff and into a river.

Chris' confrontations with Grasslanders were far from over, as she and Nash ended up at Budebuc castle, which is owned by Sir Thomas...who was playing host to Hugo! Though Hugo attacked from behind, Chris quickly got the upper hand. Chris avoided killing Hugo, but her young opponent would not stop attacking her until Sir Thomas broke up the fight.

After the battle, Chris left her fellow knights to accompany Nash Clovis on a quest to find her father. According to Nash, Wyatt Lightfellow is not only alive, he's also a Fire Bringer—a person in possession of a True Rune that grants him incredible powers and longevity. Nash contends that Chris' father is one of the two men who were always at the side of the Flame Champion, the legendary hero who used the power of the True Fire Rune to end the war between the Grasslands and Holy Harmonia.

Soon after Lady Chris departed, a private army from a nearby council appeared at Budebuc castle to take Hugo into custody. With the help of Sir Thomas and his staff, Hugo made a clean getaway, only to discover that Harmonia had invaded the Grasslands and conquered the village of Safir. Hugo made his way to the village of the Duck Clan, where he met Hallee and Mua, two knights from the Grasslands territory of Kamaro. To save their home, the two men are on a quest to locate the Flame Champion, whom they've heard is currently in Chisha. Realizing the compatibility of their missions, Hugo, Hallee and Mua agreed to travel together.

Seemingly unbeknownst to any of the Zexens or Grasslanders, Chris' father Wyatt Lightfellow and Karayan warrior Jimba are one and the same person...and he's a friend of Geddoe, who wields the True Lightning Rune. Geddoe's secret possession of the True Lightning Rune was revealed to his allies and enemies alike when he recently used it in battle against an agent of the mysterious Masked Bishop of Holy Harmonia. Despite the revelation, Geddoe's group decided to stay together, though the consequences of the Masked Bishop's knowledge of Geddoe's secret are yet to be known.

Now, with the expiration of the 50-year treaty that maintained the truce between Holy Harmonia and the Grasslands, forces from many sides are converging on the Grasslands village known as Chisha. The big question is: who will survive the collision?



AFTER ALL,
I HEAR
THOSE
SHAMAN
WOMEN...

LET'S
HOPE
WE FIND
ALMA-
KINAN
SOON!

FL 100%



YOU CAN
STOP YOUR
JOKES
RIGHT
THERE.

FL



WHERE
THE
HECK
DID YOU
COME
FROM
--?!



MOST
PEOPLE
AVOID
THIS
LAND.

WHAT
BUSINESS
HAVE YOU
HERE...?







HOW
DO YOU
KNOW
MY NAME?

YOU'RE
LADY...
CHRIS
LIGHT-
FELLOW,
RIGHT?

FORGIVE
OUR
RUDENESS!
IT'S BEEN
DANGEROUS
HERE
LATELY...



WE
SHOULD
TALK
WHERE
IT'S SAFE.

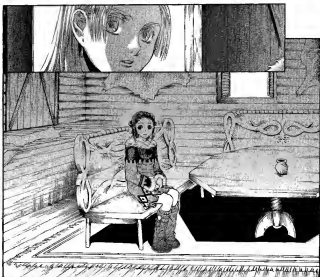
RIGHT
NOW, WE'RE
OUTSIDE
THE
BOUNDARY.



LET'S
GET TO
TOWN
FIRST.

THERE IS
SOMEONE
WAITING
FOR YOU
THERE.







YOU'RE CHRIS?



NOT SINCE THE ORACLE WHO FORETOLD OF THAT CATASTROPH 50 YEARS AGO.



YUN IS AN ORACLE WHO HEARS SPIRIT VOICES AND FORETELLS THE FUTURE. THAT IS HOW WE KNEW YOU WERE COMING.

POWERS AS STRONG AS YUN'S ARE RARELY SEEN--EVEN IN THIS VILLAGE.



YES, IT INVOLVED YOUR FATHER.

THE CATASTROPH



"FOR 10 DAYS, THE FIRE WILL BLAZE--SO BRIGHTLY IT WILL BE LIKE A NEW STAR BEING BORN."

"THE WIND WILL BLOW MORE WILDLY ACROSS THE GRASSLANDS THAN THE WINDS FROM THE EAST, AND THE TINIEST FLAME WILL GROW TO BECOME AN ALL-CONSUMING INFERNO."

50 YEARS AGO, AN ORACLE MADE THIS PREDICTION...



--A FIRE SCORCHED THE EARTH FOR 10 DAYS.

AFTER A GREAT EXPLOSION--

HISTORY PROVED HER PREDICTION TO BE TRUE.



RY "FATS," WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

THEY WERE THE "FIRE BRINGERS." WYATT WAS ONE OF THEM.

BY FATE, A SPECIAL GROUP UNDER THE COMMAND OF THE FLAME CHAMPION FOUGHT TO PROTECT THE GRASSLANDS FROM THE INVADING HARMONIAN ARMY.





OR YOU
TAKE REFUGE
BENEATH A TREE
IN A SUDDEN
RAIN AND
YOU HAPPEN
TO MEET
SOMEONE
THERE WHO IS
ALSO TAKING
SHELTER...

...WHEN YOU
COME TO A
FORK IN THE
ROAD, YOU
BLINDLY
KICK A ROCK
TO SEE WHERE
IT LEADS
YOU...

HOW
ABOUT
—



THESE
ARE TIMES
WHEN YOU
ARE LED
BY THE
INVISIBLE
THREADS
OF THE
SPIRITS.

EVEN
SOME
IN THE
GRASS-
LANDS
THINK
THIS WAY.



THINK
ABOUT IT.
YOU WERE
ONLY BORN
BECAUSE
YOUR FA-
THER WAS
FATED TO
MEET YOUR
MOTHER.

THE
THREADS
THAT
LEAD
PEOPLE
—

...THESE
ARE
"FATE."



.....



YES--
SO TO
SPEAK.



AND
SO
...?



.....

YOU'RE
SAYING
EVEN MY
BIRTH WAS
DECIDED
BY THESE
SPIRITS?

“THE WIND AND THE FATE
WILL NOT CEASE

AND AS THEY FIGHT ONE
AGAINST THE OTHER

THE ONE WITH THE FIVE
POWERS WILL APPEAR

TO BEGIN HIS
UNSTOPPABLE
DESTRUCTION...”



NOW,
50 YEARS
LATER, YUN'S
DEVINATION
HAS GIVEN
US MANY
FEARFUL
PROPHECIES.



...IS THAT A
CALAMITY
WILL BEFALL
THE GRASS-
LANDS. ONE
EVEN
BIGGER
THAN THE
ONE FROM
50 YEARS
AGO.

NEITHER
YUN NOR
I CAN
QUITE
UNDERSTAND
THE
MEANING
OF THIS
PROPHECY.

ALL
WE CAN
SAY...



PERHAPS
THE
PROPHECIES
HAVE
ALREADY
STARTED TO
BECOME
REALITY...

HARMONIA'S
RECENT
INVASION
OF THE
GRASSLANDS
IS ANOTHER
INDICATION
OF THIS.



I-I WAS
TALKING TO
SIR
SALOME
ABOUT
THAT.



ONE OF
THE SIX
CLANS,
THE SAFIR
CLAN, HAS
ALREADY
FALLEN.



HARMONIA
WAS
INVADING.



YOU SEE?
THIS IS
A TIME
WHEN THE
PROPHECIES
START
COMING TRUE.
EVEN YOU
WERE LED TO
THIS TOWN
BY YOUR OWN
UNLUCKY
DESTINY.

IF ALL
THIS
ISN'T FATE,
THEN
WHAT IS
IT...?



NOW,
JUST HOLD
ON A SEC-
OND



I
HAVE
AN
IDEA...



YOU'RE
SAYING
YOU
KNOW...
WHAT
FEELINGS
BROUGHT
ME HERE?



THE FIGHT
IN THE KA-
RAYA LANDS--?
AGAINST THE
LIZARDS--?
...EVEN ABOUT
MY FATHER...?
YOU THINK YOU
CAN JUST WRITE
EVERYTHING
OFF WITH THE
SINGLE WORD,
"FATE?"



YOU'RE
FULL
OF IT!!
YOU'RE
SAYING
THIS WAS
ALL
DECIDED?!
IT WAS
ALL JUST
THESE
SPIRITS
LEADING
US?!



YOU EVEN
CALL EVIL
THINGS
"FATE," AS
IF IT WERE
SOMETHING
FEARFUL...

IT WILL
BE HARD
FOR
SOMEONE
LIKE
YOU TO
UNDER-
STAND.

YOU HAVE
MADE THE
VOICES OF
THE SPIRITS
DISTANT BY
LIVING ON
STONE AND
WRAPPING
YOURSELF
IN IRON.



SEE,
PLEASE
EXCUSE
US!



WHAT--?!
WE
HAVEN'T
HEARD
WHAT
SHE--!

I'M
LEAV-
ING!



...





YOU WOULD
HAVE BEEN
STOPPED BY
VINAY DEL
ZEXAY--
BEFORE
YOU COULD
SEARCH
FOR YOUR
FATHER.
RIGHT?



I DID
INDEED
WANT TO
STEAL
THE IRON
MAIDEN
AWAY
FROM THE
ZEXEN
KNIGHTS.

EVEN IF
I HADN'T
ABLE TO
REACH
MYATT, I
THOUGHT
IT WOULD
BE NICE
TO HAVE
A YOUNG
LADY
ALONG.



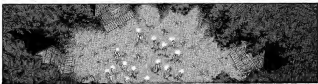
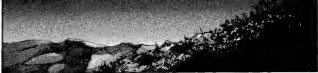
AND WOULDN'T
THAT PUT
ME--NASH,
THE GREAT,
SUPER-SKILLED
HARMONIAN
SPY--
IN A FIX!

!



ANYWAY, IT
LOOKS LIKE
SIR SALOME
IS USING MY
INFORMATION
FOR HIS OWN
PLANS.







IT CERTAINLY LOOKS WELL CARED FOR.

HARD TO BELIEVE IT IS BEING PASSED OFF AS A SIMPLE ALTAR...



IS THIS... A SINDAR SEAL?

NO... IT IS NOT JUST A NORMAL SEAL...

COULD IT BE A KEY... TO UNLOCK A DIFFERENT SEAL SOMEBODY'S SEAL?



THIS IS THE LAST NIGHT I'LL SEE YOUR FACE.

AREN'T YOU AFRAID, YUN?

YUN.



...ALL
RIGHT.
I'LL
TELL
THEM.



THANKS
FOR
EVERYTHING,
YUIRI.



IS THERE
ANYONE
YOU'D
LIKE TO
SPEAK TO?



I WAS VERY
HAPPY TO
BE A GIRL
OF ALMA-
KINAN.



PLEASE
BE SURE
THAT
EVERY-
ONE
KNOWS
THAT.



I'M NOT CRAZY
ABOUT THAT
ONE, EVEN IF
SHE IS THE
DAUGHTER OF
SIR WYATT.

I
SEE...



YES,
PLEASE
GET LADY
CHRIS.



CHRIS IS
A KIND
PERSON.



THIS
WAY...



LADY
CHRIS.



YUN IS
WAITING
FOR YOU
IN FRONT
OF THE
ALTAR.

PLEASE
FORGIVE
ME
FOR
DISTURBING
YOU IN THE
MIDDLE OF
THE NIGHT.



WAITING...?
FOR ME...?



WHAT
IS
ALL
THIS
...?







SOUL-
GIVING?
THE
LAST?



YUN IS THE
ONE WE'RE
GIVING UP.
SHE'S CHOSEN
YOU TO BE
THE LAST
PERSON SHE
TALKS TO.

THIS IS THE
"SOUL-
GIVING
CEREMONY,"
TO PRAY TO
THE SPIRITS
FOR THE
PROTECTION
OF THE
GRASSLANDS.



YUN IS
BACK
THERE...
PLEASE
GO NOW.

THIS IS A
VERY, VERY
SACRED
CEREMONY.
NOTHING
UNCLEAN
SHOULD
PASS HERE.

TAKE
CARE
WHERE
YOU
STEP.



WHAT
THE HELL
IS THIS?
FOR
CRYING
OUT
LOUD...





MY
FATHER...?



OH,
YES.

I WANTED
TO TALK
ABOUT
SIR
WYATT...



YUN,
YOU
WANTED
TO SEE
ME...?



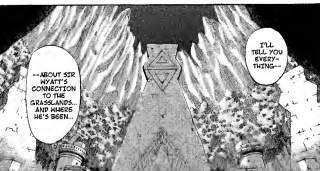
GOOD.
THAT
MAKES
THIS
A BIT
EASIER.



Y-YES,
THAT IS
WHAT
I'VE
HEARD...



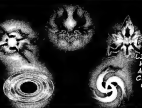
YOU KNOW
THAT SIR
WYATT
CARRIES
THE TRUE
WATER RUNE,
DON'T YOU?



--ABOUT SIR
WYATT'S
CONNECTION
TO THE
GRASSLANDS...
AND WHERE
HE'S BEEN...

I'LL
TELL YOU
EVERY-
THING--

THESE TRUE RUNES CAN BE DANGEROUS. ALTHOUGH THEY GIVE THEIR BEARERS STRONG MAGIC POWERS AND STOP THEIR AGING--ONE FALSE MOVE CAN CAUSE A GREAT CALAMITY.



IT IS SAID THAT THERE ARE 27 TRUE RUNES IN THIS WORLD.

FIVE OF THEM, THE RUNES OF FIRE, LIGHTNING, EARTH, WIND AND WATER, ARE COLLECTIVELY CALLED "THE RUNES OF THE FIVE TRUE POWERS."

HOWEVER, THAT COULD CAUSE BOTH THE RUNE AND ITS BEARER TO LOSE THEIR LIVES.

THAT IS WHY SIR WYATT DECIDED TO SEAL UP THE TRUE WATER RUNE. HE WAS CLIPPING

AND SO, HE DEvised A SPECIAL WAY OF SEALING IT.



ALTHOUGH SIR WYATT COULD NO LONGER USE THE POWER OF THE RUNE, HE WOULD CONTINUE TO BE AGELESS.

USING THE SPECIAL MAGIC OF THE SINDAR PEOPLE, HE SEALED UP HALF OF THE RUNE'S POWER AND HELD THE REST IN HIS OWN HANDS.





THAT
THING...?!



HE MADE
A SPECIAL
"KEY" TO
OPEN IT
AND THEN
HID IT
AWAY IN A
DIFFERENT
LOCATION.

HE LOOKED
IT SO THAT
THE SEAL
COULD NOT
BE EASILY
BROKEN.



...THAT
LOCATION...

...IS
THE WATER
ALTAR OF
ALMA-
KINAN.



IS THIS
THE
REASON
FOR THIS
"SOUL-
GIVING
CEREMO-
NY...?"



AAA...



BUT NOW...
IN ORDER TO
PREPARE FOR
THE COMING
CATAclysm,
SIR HYATT
NEEDS US TO
BREAK THE
SEAL.

THE ALMA-
KINANS
HAVE BEEN
GUARDING
THIS WATER
ALTAR ALL
THESE YEARS
SO THAT NO
ONE ELSE
COULD GET
HOLD OF THE
TRUE WATER
RUNS.



IN ORDER
TO BREAK
OPEN THE
SEAL,
I WILL GIVE
MY LIFE TO
THE ALTAR
TONIGHT.



ON A HIGHWAY
10 DAYS TO THE
WEST, AT THE
NIGHT OF THE
NEW MOON, A
SEALED DOOR
SHALL OPEN.

WYATT
SHALL BE
ON THE
OTHER
SIDE.



I FEEL
VERY
LUCKY
TO HAVE
BEEN
CHOSEN.

AND
I'M NOT
DYING.
I'M
BECOMING
A SPIRIT.
THE SOUL OF
A SPIRIT IS
ETERNAL.
YOU KNOW.

TO BREAK
THE SEAL,
THE SOUL
OF A
PERSON
WITH
STRONG
SPIRITUAL
ENERGY IS
NECESSARY.



YOU'LL
DIE FOR
THIS
CEREMONY
...?

WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN,
YOU'LL
GIVE UP
YOUR
LIFE...?



YUN,
DON'T
DO
THIS...



I-I'M...

...KIND?

?!



JUST
AS I'D
THOUGHT.

YOU'RE
A KIND
PERSON,
CHRIS.



I HADN'T
FORCED
INTO
THIS. I'VE
CHOSEN
THIS PATH
MYSELF.

WHAT IS
MORE,
THIS IS
A TASK
ONLY
I CAN
DO.

MY ONE
LIFE
COULD
SAVE
MANY
LIVES,
CHRIS.



COMPARED
TO HER,
I'VE GOT
NO FAITH
IN MYSELF
AT ALL...



SHE
DOESN'T
HAVE A
BIT!

SHE NOT
ONLY
FOLLOWS
HER
BELIEFS--
SHE HAS
FAITH IN
HERSELF.





...MAYBE I
SHOULDN'T
MEET MY
FATHER...



THEN
YOU
MUST DO
THAT.

YOU WANT
TO MEET
YOUR
FATHER,
RIGHT?



WHY
NOT?



I WAS...

...BY MY
FATHER,
WYATT
LONG-
FELLOW.

...ABAN-
DONED...



THE MORE
I LEARN
ABOUT MY
FATHER...

...THE MORE
I SEE NO ROOM
FOR ME INSIDE
HIS MIND.



...YOU TWO
REALLY
DO LOOK
ALIKE!

NO,
BUT...



HEH
HEH...



I-IS
THAT
FUNNY?



...TO MAKE
SURE THE
ALTAR WAS
ALL RIGHT.
AND TO ASK
FOR THE
PREDICTIONS
OF ALMA-
KINAN...

SIR WYATT
CAME
TO THIS
TOWN
EVERY
FEW
YEARS...



AND
ABOUT
YOU AND
YOUR
MOTHER,
CHRIS...

ABOUT
HIS
COM-
PANIONS
FROM
LONG
AGO...

ABOUT
THE
ZEVEN
AND THE
GRASS-
LANDS...

EVEN
THOUGH
I'VE NEVER
LEFT THIS
VILLAGE,
I'VE HEARD
MANY TALES
OF THE
OUTSIDE
WORLD
FROM SIR
WYATT.

"MY WIFE WAS
THE MOST
BEAUTIFUL
WOMAN IN
THE ZEXEN
FEDERATION."

"IT IS A GOOD
THING CHRIS
DOESN'T LOOK
LIKE ME."

"WHEN CHRIS
GROWS UP, MEN
WON'T LEAVE
HER ALONE!"

"FROM ME,
SHE GOT THE
STRENGTH TO
SUCCEED."



WHENEVER
SIR WYATT
TALKED
ABOUT HIS
FAMILY,
HE WOULD
LOOK SO
HAPPY!



BUT...





IT IS A
TERRIBLE
THING,
HOW MY
DAUGHTER
AND MY
ENEMIES
ARE NOW...

...FROM
TIME TO
TIME, SIR
HYATT
WOULD
WEAR SUCH
A SAD
FACE...



WHEN I GROW UP,
I'M GONNA BE A
KNIGHT--!



I WORRY ABOUT
MY DAUGHTER.
THAT NAME IS A
HEAVY BURDEN
FOR HER.

I PROBABLY
PUSHED HER TOO
HARD, THINKING
I WAS JUST
CHEERING HER ON.





IF ONLY
I COULD HAVE
BEEN THERE FOR
MY WIFE'S
FINAL
MOMENTS...

I MUST STOP.
IT IS NOT LIKE
ME TO WORRY
LIKE THIS!

NOT SINCE I
ABANDONED MY
FAMILY WHEN
I WAS ESCAPING



WHO WOULDN'T
HATE A FATHER
LIKE ME...?



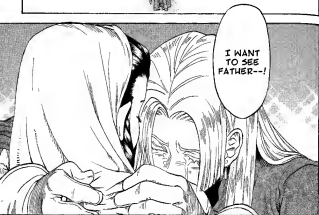
CHRIS...

SIR
HYATT...



--AND
ONCE I'M
A KNIGHT,
I'LL STAY
AT FATHER'S
SIDE--





I WANT
TO SEE
FATHER--!



OH,
MAN...









...IT HAS
BEEN
PREDICTED
HE WILL
DIE!

SO,
PLEASE
HURRY...



...I WILL
DEFINITELY
FIND MY
FATHER!

AND IF
HE IS IN
DANGER,
I'LL SAVE
HIM--AS A
DAUGHTER
SHOULD!



NO MATTER
WHAT ANY
PREDICTION
SAYS..



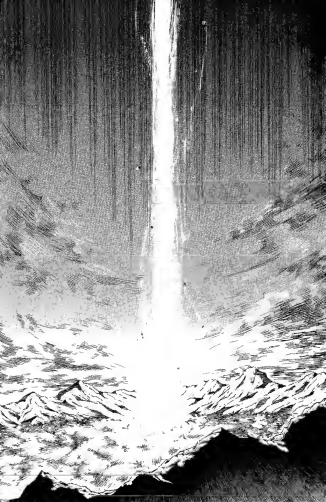
CHRIS...

YOU REALLY
ARE A KIND
PERSON.











YUN...
YOU'VE...



IT IS
DINING





WHAT?!



I'LL
FIGHT
WITH
YOU.



I'VE
THOUGHT
IT
THROUGH.
IT'LL
BE ALL
RIGHT.



HOW CAN
YOU?
YOU'RE
A ZEXEN-
SOLDIER--!



BESIDES...
ISN'T
THIS THAT
"FATE"
THING?



WE
GREATLY
APPRECI-
ATE IT.







SHOULDN'T
WE GO
AFTER THEM?

IF YOU
WANT
TO BE A
SACRIFICE,
I COULD
FIND MANY
WAYS TO
USE YOU.

UNLESS
YOU'D
LIKE TO
MAKE
YOURSELF
USEFUL
FOR A CER-
MONY,
SARAH?

THEY'VE
BROKEN
THE SEAL.
WITHOUT
OUR HELP,
HE'LL JUST
WATCH
A BIT
LONGER.



ONE
GROUP
WILL GO
TO THE
SINLAR
RUINS IN
THE GREAT
HOLLOW--

WE'LL
SPLIT
INTO
TWO
GROUPS.



THERE
ARE
OTHER
THINGS
TO BE
DONE.



LET'S
GO.



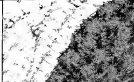
IT IS ALL
UNFOLDING
ACCORDING
TO PLAN.



--THE
OTHER
WILL GO
TO THE
APPOINTED
PLACE.



Can one tell
if destiny has been
changed or not...?



--OR
THE HAR-
MONIAN
ARMY
COULD
CATCH US.

WE
MUST BE
CAREFUL
TO AVOID
THE
ROADS--

ONCE WE
CROSS THAT
LAST RIDGE,
WE'LL BE
IN CHIMA
CLAN
TERRITORY.



THE BATTLE
COULD BE
OVER
ALREADY--

I WONDER
IF THE
FLAME
CHAMPION
IS
FIGHTING
RIGHT
NOW?



MY
BLOOD IS
BOILING
FOR A
FIGHT!!



THANKS
--IT IS
ALL
BECAUSE
OF YOU!



...EVEN
IF IT
MEANS A
BATTLE
OF ONE
AGAINST
A MULTI-
TITUDE...





HEY,
HUGO!
LONG
TIME, NO
SEE!

OH!

APPLE!
CAESAR!



I THOUGHT
I SHOULD
SEE A LIVE
BATTLE
ONCE...



WE HEARD
THERE WAS
A BATTLE
GOING
ON IN
CHISHA--

--SO WE
BOPE HERE
ON A
MERCHANT'S
CART.

WHAT
ARE YOU
GUYS
DOING
HERE?!



...NOT
MUCH OF
ANYTHING.
THERE AREN'T
BATTLE
CONDITIONS
AT ALL.



...BUT NOW
THAT HE'VE
MADE IT--
NOBODY IS
HERE AND
THERE AREN'T
EVEN ANY
WEAPONS TO
SPEAK OF..

...NO
VILLAGERS
FIGHTING
AMONGST
THEM-
SELVES..

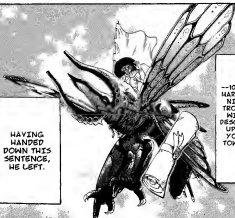
YESTERDAY...
A LEBRQUE
INSECT-
SOLDIER
SHOWED UP
UNDER
HARMONIAN
COMMAND.



P-PLEASE
TELL US
EXACTLY
WHAT
WENT ON
HERE...?



HAVING
HANDLED
DOWN THIS
SENTENCE,
HE LEFT.



"I'LL BE
BRIEF. IT
IS TIME
FOR YOU
TO GIVE
UP YOUR
FUTILE
RESISTANCE.
IF NOT--

--10,000
HARMO-
NIAN
TROOPS
WILL
DESCEND
UPON
YOUR
TOWN."



INSECT-
SOLDIER...



THEY'RE
PROBABLY
OUT TO TAKE
CONTROL
OF ALL THE
GRASSLANDS.

THIS TOWN
WOULDN'T BE
USEFUL FOR
LOGGING OR
SUPPLIES.



T-TEN
THOUSAND?!
YOU'VE GOT
TO BE
JOKING!!



...FOR THE
FLAME
CHAMPION
TO BE
RESURRECTED,
SO THAT HE
CAN SAVE
THEM.

THEY'VE
BEEN MADE
TO WORK
LIKE SLAVES.
MEANWHILE,
THEY ARE
STILL
WAITING...



THE
LEBUGUE
CONTROL
INSECTS,
THEY EVEN
LIVE
TOGETHER.

ALTHOUGH
THEY BECAME
THIRD-CLASS
CITIZENS OF
HARMONIA IN THE
CHAOS AFTER THE
WAR, THEY USED
TO BE CALLED
THE "KAANA
CLAN,"
COMRADES OF THE
GRASSLANDERS,
WHO FOUGHT
ALONGSIDE
THE FLAME
CHAMPION.



THE
HARMONIANS
HAVE 10,000
TROOPS;
WE BARELY
HAVE 300.

WE NEED
REINFORCE-
MENTS, BUT
WE DON'T
KNOW WHEN
THEY WILL
COME. HOW
LONG MUST
WE WAIT...?

WE'VE
GATHERED
HEMP TO
BURN--THE
INSECTS
CAN'T STAND
THE SMOKE.
WE'VE ALSO
DUG TRAPS
FOR THEM
TO FALL IN.

THAT SAID,
THEY ARE
STILL
OUR
ENEMIES.



WE'VE
BEEN HERE
FOR
GENERATIONS. WE
DON'T
WANT
TO
LEAVE!

IF WE
ABANDON
THE FIELDS, WE'LL HAVE
NOTHING
TO EAT

AND EVEN
IF WE LEFT
IT, WHERE
WOULD WE
GO?

IT IS NOT
A "STUPID
TOWN"! THIS
IS OUR
PRECIOUS
VILLAGE!

...YOU
GUYS
SHOULD
ABANDON
THIS
STUPID
TOWN!!

THAT IS
EXACTLY
WHY...



IF
EVERYONE
STAKES
THEIR LIVES
ON IT, AND
COOPERATES
--!

THE
BATTLE
HASN'T
EVEN
STARTED
YET!



...OKAY,
LISTEN
UP
EVERY-
ONE!

THAT WAS
JUST
TRAINING.
I'M ONLY
AN
AMATEUR...

COME TO
THINK
OF IT,
CAESAR--
DIDN'T YOU
SAY YOU
TRAINED
TO BE A
TACTICIAN?



PREPARING ALL THAT
REQUIRES A TACTICIAN.

TO HIM,
YOU NEED
ENOUGH
MILITARY
FORCE AND
SUPPLIES
TO DO THE
JOB.

A TRUE
TACTICIAN
KNOWS
THAT
"WINNING
WITH A
FEW OVER
MANY" IS
SIMPLY A
PIPE DREAM.

--IF IT
COMES
DOWN TO
200
VERSUS
10,000--
RETREAT.

I'LL TELL
YOU THIS
MUCH--
AS AN
"APPRENTICE
TACTICIAN"--



IF I
REALLY WERE
A TACTICIAN,
THERE'S
NO WAY
I COULD
ORDER YOU TO
STAY HERE
AND FIGHT.

--IT'S THIS:
IT IS EASY TO
TALK TOUGH,
BUT ARE YOU
REALLY
PREPARED TO
DIE HERE?

LOOK, IT'S NOT
JUST THAT YOUR
"ARMY" IS A
BUNCH OF
NOVICES, OR EVEN
THAT THERE IS
NOTHING ABOUT
THE TERRAIN
HERE THAT OFFERS
YOU A NATURAL
DEFENSE--



CHANGING

-- THE
MOST
IMPORTANT
THING IS
FOR YOU
TO STAY
ALIVE.

AS PAINFUL
AS IT MIGHT
BE TO GIVE
UP OR RUN
AWAY--

I
AGREE
WITH
HIM.



THAT IS
A VIABLE
STRATEGY.



SO, TO SAVE
OUR TOWN,
WE SHOULD
SURRENDER...?



WHAT
ABOUT
THE FLAME
CHAMPION?

I HEARD THAT
HE HAS
REAPPEARED
IN THE CHISHA
CLAN LANDS,
LEADING
HIS FIRE
BRINGERS...





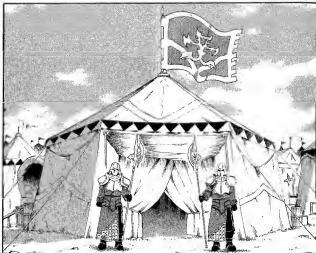
IT WAS
TO BE A
TUMOR.

I'M
SORRY...
I'M
AFRAID
THAT
IS NOT
TRUE.





10 LEAGUES
FROM THE
CHISHA
CLAN LANDS,
AT THE
HARMONIAN
BASE CAMP.



IN THE
MEANTIME,
OUR MAIN FORCE
WILL TOPPLE THE
CHISHA CLAN.
AFTER WE LINK
THE THREE LANDS
OF LEBUGUS,
SAFIR AND CHISHA
TOGETHER, WE'LL
HAVE A SECURE
SUPPLY ROUTE.



OUR ENGINEER
BATTALIONS ARE
PREPARING TO
USE THE SAFIR
CLAN LANDS AS
A FOOTHOLD
TO INVAD THE
REST OF THE
GRASSLANDS.



ONCE WE'VE
ESTABLISHED
THAT, WE'LL
BE ABLE TO
INVADE THE
GRASSLANDS
WITH NO
CHANCE OF
OUR BATTLE
LINES BEING
CUT OFF.



THE CLANS KNOWN
AS THE BRAVEST
AMONG THE SIX
CLANS--THE LIZARD
AND THE KARAYA--
HAVE HAD THEIR
MILITARY STRENGTH
WORN DOWN
BY CONTINUOUS
BATTLES WITH
THE ZEXEN
FEDERATION.
THEY SHOULD NOW
BE TAKEN EASILY.

AFTER THAT,
WE'LL EXPAND
OUR LINES
TO TAKE
POSSESSION
OF THE
GRASSLANDS.



AND THEN
WE'LL
START
OUR WAR
ON THE
ZEXEN.



AFTER WE
HAVE TAKEN
ALL THE
CLANS, OUR
ARMIES CAN
RETURN TO
OUR
HOMELAND
TO REGROUP
AND RE-
SUPPLY.



DO NOT
CONDEMN
YOURSELF.
I ALSO
HAVE
PLANS
FOR HIM.



THE FIRE
BRINGERS
HAVE BEEN
SEEN IN THE
SURROUNDING
LANDS.
IT IS ONLY A
MATTER OF
TIME BEFORE
WE CAPTURE
THE FLAME
CHAMPION.



I SEE.
YOU HAVE
A GREAT
PLAN, AS
ALWAYS,
BUT—

—WHAT
WILL YOU
DO ABOUT
THE FLAME
CHAMPION?



BRING
TEA!

YES,
SIR!

BY
THE
WAY—



I'M
THIRSTY,
DIOS.

YES,
SIR!



MY
SUBORDINATE
SAID HE
SAW HIM
TALKING
TO YOU.

IS THAT
MASKED
BISHOP
A FRIEND
OF YOURS?



H
M
M
...



.....



AH,
NO...

WE ONLY
SPOKE
BECAUSE
WE'RE BOTH
HARMONIAN
SOLDIERS
WHO HAVE
SWORN
LOYALTY TO
HIS MAJESTY,
THE PRIEST-
GENERAL.



YES,
SIR...
THANK
YOU
VERY
MUCH.



WELL...
NEVER
MIND
THAT.

I LOOK
FORWARD
TO SEEING
YOU IN
ACTION,
ALBERT.



HERE
YOU
ARE.



YES, SIR!
I AM FRANZ,
VICE
CAPTAIN
OF A
LEBUGUE
AERIAL
RAIDING
ARMY!

SORRY TO
KEEP YOU
WAITING.



I SEE—
I'LL BE
RIGHT
THERE.

LORD PTOOS,
I HAVE
NEWS
FROM THE
FRONT.



YES,
SIR!

GOOD
WORK!
YOU MAY
RETURN TO
CAMP.



OH, YES,
BEFORE
YOU
GO—



—BRING
ME THAT
STUFF!

WE'VE
SET UP
CAMP
TWO
LEAGUES
AWAY.

ALL
PREPARATIONS
FOR ATTACK
ARE NOW
COMPLETE.
THE CHISHA
HAVE BEEN
ORDERED TO
SURRENDER.

THUD



ARE
THESE...
PROVI-
SIONS?



A SMALL
FAVOR
TO THE
MANTOR
TRAINERS
FROM LORD
SASARAI.

TAKE
THEM
WITH
YOU.



THUD



TH-THANK
YOU VERY
MUCH!!



LET'S
GO,
APPLE.

THERE IS
NOTHING
MORE WE
CAN DO.



HA,
HA!



HUGO!!



KUUUUUU

CUT IT
OUT,
FUBAR!

THAT
TECKLES!



SERGEANT
JOE!!



HESSEY!







SER-
GEANT
...



I'LL
LEAVE
ANY
MORE
LECTUR-
ING
UP TO
LUCIA.

WELL...
IT IS
ALL
RIGHT;
I'M
JUST
GLAD
YOU'RE
OKAY.



THEY
SHOULD
BE HERE
IN HALF
A DAY!

YOUR
GRASSLAND
COMRADES,
THE DUCK,
LIZARD, AND
KARAYA, ARE
SENDING
YOU AN ARMY
OF REIN-
FORCEMENTS!

PEOPLE OF
CHISHA! I
HAVE A
MESSAGE
FROM THE
CHIEF OF
THE DUCK
CLAN!



--LADY
SANA,
YOU WILL
HAVE OUR
SWORDS.

NO
NEED
TO
ASK
US--



WITH
THAT, WE
MIGHT
STAND A
CHANCE...

HALF A
DAY!





FUBAR AND
I WILL
GO UP
AND TAKE
A QUICK
LOOK!

HAS
ANYONE
DONE A
HEAD COUNT
ON THE
HARMONICUS
LATELY?

THANK
GOOD-
NESS!



THAT
COULD
BE A
LONG
TIME...

...TUK...



YOU HEARD
THAT,
RIGHT,
CAESAR? A
HALF DAY
MORE...



I'M NOT
OUT TO
ABANDON
THIS
VILLAGE.

I JUST
WANT TO
DO ALL
THAT
I CAN.



HUGO!
LET
ME
RIDE
HIM.



HUH
--? WELL
...



THAT'S
JUST
S-
GODDAMN



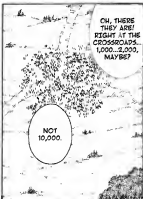
NORMALLY,
FUBAR
WON'T LET
ANY OTHER
HUMAN
RIDE HIM.

BUT
TODAY
IS
SPECIAL!



I'D LIKE
TO PLACE
ARCHERS
IN THE
WOODS ON
EITHER
SIDE.

HMM. THE
HARMONTAN
TROOPS WILL
LIKELY BE
GOING UP
THAT
SLOPING
ROAD.



OH, THERE
THEY ARE!
RIGHT AT THE
CROSSROADS...
1,000...2,000,
MAYBE?

NOT
10,000.



WUP
THERE
IS SOME
KIND OF
GUARREL
GOING
ON.



YOU'VE
GOT
GOOD
EYES!



2,000
IS STILL
TOO MANY
FOR THIS
TOWN.

THEY'RE
ADVANCE
TROOPS; THE
REMAINING
FORCE IS
BEHIND
THEM.



THAT AMOUNT
HARDLY
FEEDS OUR
INSECTS...

AS A
THIRD-CLASS
CITIZEN, YOU
SHOULD BE
GLAD YOU GOT
AS MUCH AS
YOU DID!!

MAYBE
THESE
AREN'T
ENOUGH
PROVI-
SIONS..



...EXCEPT,
YOU GUYS
ONLY RIDE
ON THE
INSECTS,
RIGHT?

MAYBE YOU
SHOULD
TAKE A
LESSON
FROM THE
INFANTRY--
WHO RISK
THEIR OWN
LIVES.



O-COM-
MANDED!

WHAT
ON
EARTH
IS ALL
THIS
BESIAN
ABOUT?



THAT
MIGHT
BE A
PROB-
LEM...

AM I
WEARING
THESE
AREN'T
ENOUGH
PROVISIONS
FOR THE
MANOR
TRAINING?



YOU EVEN
GOT YOUR
INSECTS
FOR FREE.
PERHAPS
YOU SHOULD
REFLECT ON
JUST HOW
LUCKY YOU
ARE.



WAR IS
HARD. IT
IS EVEN
HARDER
FOR THE
WEAK.



DO WE
REALLY
HAVE TO
FIGHT
THEM?



THOSE
INSECT
TROOPS
BETTER
GET
THEIR
FOOD...



HE WASN'T
JUST A
SIMPLE
TACTICIAN;
HE WAS WHAT
I'D LIKE TO
BE: A "TRUE
TACTICIAN."

MY FATHER,
THE TACTICIAN,
ALWAYS TOLD ME:

A TACTICIAN
MUST
SOMETIMES
CHOOSE
BETWEEN
WINNING MORE
BATTLES OR
WATCHING OUT
FOR HIS MEN.



RUN!



OH...

THERE ARE
ALWAYS
HARD
QUESTIONS
YOU CAN'T
AVOID.



...SO, THE
TERRAIN
LOOKS
LIKE
THIS.



WE JUST NEED
TO FIND A
WAY TO HOLD
THEM OFF FOR
HALF A DAY
UNTIL THE
REINFORCE-
MENTS
ARRIVE.

NOW, OUR
GOAL IS
NOT TO
DEFEAT THE
ENEMY!

IF IT
GETS TOO
TOUGH, RUN!
SURVIVING
IS THE MOST
IMPORTANT
THING!

DON'T PUSH
YOURSELVES
TO BE
HEROES.



THIS
SHOULD
BE
ENOUGH
OIL,
RIGHT?

YEAH!



SO, THIS
WILL BE
OUR BEST
WEAPON?

EXACTLY.



WE'VE
BROUGHT
ALL THE
NINE
BARRELS
THERE
ARE!

GREAT!

WITH THEIR
MOBILITY AND
FIREPOWER,
OUR MOST
DANGEROUS
FOE WILL BE
THE MANTOR
TRAINERS.



ON THE
"PLUS" SIDE,
LEBQUE IS
CRAZED WITH
ITS PRAYERS
TO THE FLAME
CHAMPION,
AND THE
HARMONIANS
ARE CONSUMED
BY THEIR
GREED.



IF WE
FAIL IN
THIS
FIGHT,
IT IS
ALL
OVER.



WE NEED
TO GET
PREPARED.

GO OVER
EVERYTHING
AGAIN AND
DOUBLE-
CHECK IT.



A
LITTLE
TO THE
LEFT!



MAKE
SURE YOU
KEEP THE
DIRECTION
OF THE
WIND IN
MIND!



OHAY-
I GOT
IT.

LESSEN UP,
HALLUC--IT
GOES LIKE
THIS...

... "GRASS-
LANDER
COMRADES,
WE ARE
THE FIRE
BRINGERS.
DO NOT
BECOME
ENEMIES OF
THE FLAME
CHAMPION."









DAMN!
THE
LINE IS
BREAK-
ING!



THEY'RE
TARGETING
THE
BUILDINGS!
STAY AWAY
FROM THEM!



DON'T GET
INTO THAT
SMOKE! THE
INSECTS
WON'T BE
ABLE TO
MOVE!

GO
AROUND!
TURN
UPWIND!



HERE
THEY
COME!

IT IS
TIME
FOR THE
FLAME
CHAMPION
TO
APPEAR!



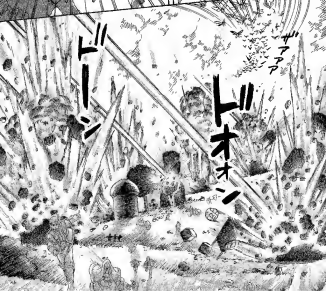
RIGHT!



IT'S ALL
RIGHT
HALLEC;
SHOUT
JUST AS
I TOLD
YOU!



OLD MAN!
WE'RE
COUNTING
ON YOUR
LOUD
VOICE!

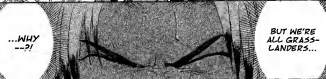






THE
LEBUQUE
SOLDIERS!
THE CHISNA
PEOPLE!
THEY'RE
GOING TO
DIE...!

...



...WHY
--?!

BUT WE'RE
ALL GRASS-
LANDERS...



?!



STOP IT
ALREADY,
KAANA CLAN
WARRIORS!!

WE
SHOULDN'T
BE
FIGHTING
EACH
OTHER!!



SH-SHUT
UP!!



THE KAANA
CLANSMEN
ARE
WARRIORS
WITH PRIDE
AS HIGH AS
THE HEAVENS,
RIGHT!?











COULD HE
REALLY BE
RESURRECTED?

うん

THAT
IS...

...THE
RUNE OF
THE FLAME
CHAMPION!



TIME TO
RE-
GROUP!
BACK TO
THE BASE!



THAT
LOOKS
BAD! THE
SOLDIERS
ARE
PANICK-
ING!



WHAT
THE HELL
ARE YOU
DOING,
MANTOR
TRAINERS!



うん...

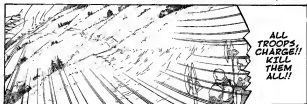


WE'LL
GO AND
DESTROY
THIS
LOUSY
TOWN IN
ONE FELL
SWOOP!

PAY
THEM
NO
MIND!!



DAMN
VERMIN...
USELESS...
NOT EVEN
FIT FOR
CANNON
FOODER...



ALL
TROOPS,
CHARGE!!
KILL
THEM
ALL!!



HERE
THEY
COME!!



PUT
OUT THE
FIRES
AND GET
TO YOUR
POSTS!
THE
GROUND
TROOPS'
ATTACK IS
COMING
SOON!











WATCH
OUT FOR
THOSE
BARRELS!



わあッ



WE
DID
IT!!



GRRR...
WHAT A
USELESS
WAY TO
ACT!







WHERE
ARE THOSE
REINFORCE-
MENTS?!



THERE'RE
NO MORE
BARRELS
TO THROW!

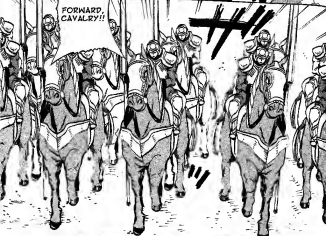
WHAT
WILL
WE DO?!

DON'T
SHOW
YOUR
FACE!



FILL
IN THE
HOLES--
THE
ENEMY IS
COMING!!





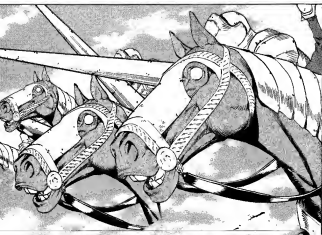


THE
ARROWS
HAVE
STOPPED...?



?!

THE
ENEMY IS
COMING!!
AIM FOR
THE
HORSES!!







HUGO!
THAT
IDIOT!!



HUGO!!









WE'RE
TURNING THE
TABLES ON
THEM! JUST
HANG IN A
BIT LONGER!



IT'S...THE
ALMA-
KINAN
WARRIORS!



THE
REIN-
FORCE-
MENTS!



DON'T STOP
SHOOTING!
AIM AT THE
HORSES!



WHATEVER
YOU DO--
DO NOT
LET THEM
PASS!

GAH!

DON'T
BREAK
YOUR
LINES!
IF THIS
KEEPS UP,
WE'LL BE
ROUTED!



SWARM
THEM
IN ONE
RUSH,
AND
STRIKE
THEM
HARD!!



WOOO
AAAAH



A M A T E U R !!







LEAVE
THIS TO
ME! GET
THE OTHER
VILLAGERS
TO
SAFETY!



THANK YOU,
WARRIOR-
WOMAN,
WHOEVER
YOU ARE!

NA,
RIGHT!



!!
THAT'S
--!



LOOK,
EVERY-
ONE!

THE LADY
GENERAL
OF THE
IRON-
HEADS?

NO...IT
CAN'T
BE...









COMMANDER!
WE NEED
TO PULL
BACK AND
REGROUP!



IT WOULD BE
A DISGRACE
TO BE ROUTED
BY THESE
PATHETIC
BUMPKINS--!





YOU SHOULDN'T LET THE LIZARD OR WARRAY CLANS SEE YOU.

LADY ONIS.

GO NOW AND LEAVE THE REST TO US.

AND YOU.

...TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF.

MAY THE SPIRITS PROTECT YOU!





WHEN...
I'M
WORN
OUT!



OUR
TOWN IS
STILL
HERE!!



IF YOU
MUST
THANK
SOMEONE,
THANK
THOSE WHO
RISKED
THEIR
LIVES
DOING THE
FIGHTING

OH, THAT
IS QUITE
ALL
RIGHT...

BESIDES,
I MERELY
GAVE
THEM
SOME
ORDERS.



I'D LIKE TO
THANK YOU
FOR SAVING
OUR
GRASSLAND
COMRADES.

SO, YOU'RE
THE BOY
TACTICIAN
WHO SAVED
THIS
VILLAGE,
HUN?

A black and white manga panel showing two characters standing and talking. The character on the left is shorter, wearing a patterned vest and dark pants. The character on the right is taller, wearing a long, patterned robe. They are both looking at each other.

I'LL EVEN
OVERLOOK
YOUR
RUNNING OFF
LIKE THAT.
YOU SEEM TO
HAVE HAD
SUCH GOOD
EXPERIENCES.

HUGO...
YOU
FOUGHT
WELL.

WITH
THIS,
YOU'VE
BECOME A
KARAYAN
WARRIOR!

A black and white manga panel showing a close-up of a character with spiky hair, looking down with a sad expression.

I...

A black and white manga panel showing a character in a field, looking up at a figure in the distance. The figure is wearing a hooded cloak and holding a staff.

WHY
THE
LONG
FACE?

A black and white manga panel showing a character with spiky hair, looking down with a sad expression.

OKAY...

A black and white manga panel showing a character in a field, looking up at a figure in the distance. The figure is wearing a hooded cloak and holding a staff.

IT WAS
AS IF I WAS
FIGHTING
IN A DREAM.
ALL I KNEW
WAS THAT
THE CHISHA
VILLAGE
NEEDED
TO BE
PROTECTED.

I...DIDN'T
LEARN A
SINGLE
THING
ABOUT WAR.



...I ACTUALLY
KILLED
PEOPLE.
DIDN'T I...?



Y E S .

KILLING
IS PART
OF WAR,
NO MATTER
WHOSE SIDE
YOU'RE
FIGHTING
ON.

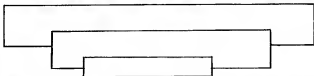
THAT
IS HOW
IT HAS
ALWAYS
BEEN.

IT TRULY
IS A CASE
OF "KILL
OR BE
KILLED"...



TO
THEM,
I'M NO
BETTER
THAN...

...THAT
LADY
OF THE
IRON-
HEADS.





...THE
MEANING
OF THIS?

JUST
WHAT
IS...



WE ALSO HAD
NO WAY OF
ANTICIPATING
THE ASSAULT BY
THOSE OTHER
GRASSLAND
REINFORCE-
MENTS!

SURE OUR
FORCES WERE
ADVANCING
WELL, UNTIL
THE CHIMA
PEOPLE USED
TACTICS
WE COULD
NEVER HAVE
FORESEEN!

I-
I...



THOSE
GRASSLANDER
REINFORCEMENTS
WERE, OF COURSE,
A SURPRISE TO US
ALL...

BUT EVEN WITH
THEM, I'M SURE
YOU HAD ENOUGH
SOLDIERS

HOW COULD
YOU HAVE
FAILED TO
DEFEAT THE
ENEMY? YOU
HAD THE
STRENGTH OF
THE GROUND
FORCES
COMBINED
WITH THE
FIREPOWER OF
THE LEBAGUE
FORCES.

JUST WHY
DO YOU
THINK I
ENTRUSTED
THE
LEBAGUE
FORCES TO
YOU?



ENOUGH!

BECAUSE OF THEIR
COHARPIE,
THE ENTIRE
OPERATION
WAS
SPOILED!



THE
VILLAGERS
SENT UP
A LITTLE
SMOKE AND
A WHOLE
LINE OF
THEM JUST
RAN OFF!



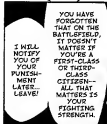
TH-THOSE
MANTOR
TRAINERS
WERE
USELESS!



AND
ABOUT YOU
ORDERING
THEM TO GO
IN AS THE
FIRST WAVE--
WITHOUT ANY
COVER!



I'VE HEARD
ABOUT YOUR
STARVING
THE LEBUQUE
FORCES!



I WILL
NOTIFY
YOU OF
YOUR
PUNISH-
MENT
LATER--
LEAVE!

YOU HAVE
FORGOTTEN
THAT ON THE
BATTLEFIELD,
IT DOESN'T
MATTER IF
YOU'RE A
FIRST-CLASS
OR THIRD-
CLASS
CITIZEN--
ALL THAT
MATTERS IS
YOUR
FIGHTING
STRENGTH.



IF YOU HAD GIVEN
THEM ENOUGH
BACKUP FROM
GROUND FORCES,
WHEN THE CHISHA
SENT UP THEIR
SMOKE, THE
LEBUQUE COULD
STILL HAVE
PREVAILED WITH
THEIR QUICK
MORILITY AND
GREAT
FIREPOWER!



YES,
SIR.

I'VE HEARD A
RUMOR THAT
THE LEBUQUE
TROOPS WERE
CLAMORING
ABOUT THE
"RESURREC-
TION OF THE
FLAME
CHAMPION."





BUT...

...IF THE
FLAME
CHAMPION
REALLY HAD
APPEARED,
WHY WOULD
THEY RESORT
TO SUCH
CHILD'S
PLAY?

I'VE ALSO
HEARD THAT
THE CHIEF OF
THE CHISHA
VILLAGE WAS
ONCE A LOVER
OF THE FLAME
CHAMPION.
IF YOU THINK
ABOUT IT, THAT
SEEMS QUITE
BELIEVABLE...



TRUE! IF
THE FLAME
CHAMPION WERE
THERE, WOULDN'T
THE GRASSLAND
TROOPS HAVE
BEEN MORE
SPIRITED?



YES,
SIR!

COULD
YOU TWO
LEAVE
FOR A
WHILE?





SO?
HOW'D
IT ALL
GO?

YOU'RE
LATE.
DOMIN-
GUEZ
JR.!



APPARENTLY
THAT
WOMANIZER
HAS TAKEN
HER IN
COMPLETELY.

HE'S
GOTTEN HER
AS FAR AS THE
ALMA-KINAN
WATER ALTAR.
THE SILVER
MAIDEN
SEEMS TO BE
QUITE TAKEN
IN BY HIS
STYLE.



--AND
NOW THE
WATER
ALTAR'S
SEAL HAS
BEEN
BROKEN.

HE'S
APPARENTLY
CONVINCED
HER THAT
THEY'RE
SEARCHING
FOR HER
FATHER. THE
TWO OF THEM
EVEN GOT
INVOLVED IN
A SPIRITUAL
CEREMONY
IN ALMA-
KINAN--



SILVER
MAIDEN?
YOU MEAN
THE LEADER
OF THE
ZEKEN
KNIGHTS?

CHRIS
LIGHT-
FELLOW?



PLEASE
GO BACK
AND KEEP
AN EYE
ON HIS
PROGRESS.



THERE
IS ONE
OTHER
THING.

WHAT
IS
THAT?



MORE
RESULTS
THAN I HAD
THOUGHT...
THIS IS
GETTING
INTERESTING.



THAT MAN,
NASH... HE SAID
YOU WERE "A
BLACK-CLOTHED
MONK WHO
NEVER LETS YOU
KNOW WHAT HE
IS THINKING."



OH...?

.....



AT THE SAME TIME, HE IS TRYING TO GET THE OWNER OF THE TRUE LIGHTNING RUNE TO JOIN HIM IN PREPARATIONS FOR THE COMING BATTLE.

...AND SO, SIR WYATT-- JIMBA--WHO CARRIES THE TRUE WATER RUNE, HAS BEGUN EFFORTS TO RELEASE ITS SEAL.

WE NEED TO MATCH THE GREAT STRENGTH OF THE HARMONIANS.

IT IS JUST LIKE 50 YEARS AGO, WHEN GRASSLANDER COMRADES GATHERED TOGETHER AS FIRE BRINGERS.

.....

WE NEED SOMEONE TO ACT AS OUR HEAD.

WE ARE SWAMPED WITH OUR OWN PROBLEMS RIGHT NOW.

WE AND THE KARAYANS ARE ALSO BUSY-- PREPARING TO FIGHT THE ZEXEN.

WITHOUT THE BRAVE FLAME CHAMPION, IT WILL BE HARD TO UNIFY ALL THE GRASSLANDERS.



I THINK
YOUR SON
SHOULD
INHERIT
THE TRUE
FIRE RUNE.

.....



THAT
MIGHT
BE
TRUE...
LUCIA...



WHAT
IS IT,
SANA?



GIVE
HUGO THE
TRUE FIRE
RUNE?!

WHAT
--?



AND, MORE
IMPORTANT
...

--HIS
STRAIGHT-
FORWARD
MIND IS
JUST LIKE
THAT
PERSON'S...



I KNOW
HUGO IS
NOT YET
FULLY
MATURE--

--BUT HE
UNDER-
STANDS
AND VALUES
THE
IMPORTANCE
OF LIFE. HE
ALSO HAS
A STRONG
WILL TO
PROTECT ALL
GRASS-
LANDERS



WE CAN'T
KEEP THE
RUNE ALL
SEALED UP
AND JUST
LET THE
GRASS-
LANDERS' ONLY
CHANCE
PASS BY!



I...THINK
WE CAN RELY
ON THE
YOUNG MAN'S
ABILITIES.



A REPTILIAN...?



SOMETIMES
IT IS A
GENERAL'S
JOB TO
TAKE IT
TOO FAR!



HUGO, YOU
TOOK IT
TOO FAR!!
YOU CAN'T
BECOME
A GOOD
CHIEF
THAT WAY!



HUGO...





IN THE
NAME OF
FATE, WHEN
THE TIME
IS RIGHT,
I SHALL
MAKE IT
KNOWN.



YES,
THAT IS
RIGHT.

HEY!
WASN'T
SHE THAT
WOMAN
WITH THE
IRON-
HEADS...?

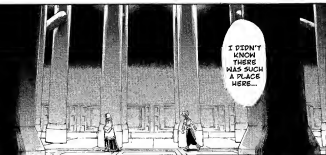


I'M SORRY--
BUT COULD
WE KEEP
THAT A
SECRET FOR
A WHILE?



HUGO AND SANA...
THAT WOMAN AND
ARMARKINAN...
NEVER MIND
HARMONIA,
NEVER MIND THE
SEVEN...

JUST WHAT ON
EARTH ARE THEY
ALL TRYING TO
DO??



I DIDN'T
KNOW
THERE
WAS SUCH
A PLACE
HERE...



HUGO.



WHY
WOULD
YOU TAKE
ME TO
SUCH A
SECRET
PLACE...?



OUTSIDE
OF THE
CHIEFS OF
THE SIX
CLANS,
VERY FEW
PEOPLE
KNOW OF
IT...



HUH?
WELL,
NOW...

...HE WAS
A HERO,
WHO LED
THE FIRE
BRINGERS
AND ALL
THE GRASS-
LANDERS.



WHAT
KIND OF
PERSON
DO YOU
THINK THE
FLAME
CHAMPION
WAS?



I'M SURE HE
WAS REALLY
STRONG AND
WATCHED OVER
THE PEOPLE
AND THOUGHT
MORE ABOUT
THE GRASSLANDS
THAN ANYTHING
ELSE...

HIS
POWER
AND
HIS WILL
SAVED THE
GRASSLANDS
FROM
HARMONIA'S
EVIL
CLUTCHES,
RIGHT...?



HE WAS
HUMAN,
JUST LIKE
YOU.



SO THAT
IS WHAT
YOU
THINK...?

I WONDER
IF THAT
WAS THE
TRUTH...?



EH?



...ONTO THE
STATUS OF
THE FLAME
CHAMPION.



A NORMAL
HUMAN
BEING,
WHO GOT
ANGRY AND
LAUGHED
AND HATED
AND
WOUNDED
OTHERS.



IT
SOUNDS
LIKE
YOU'RE
TALKING
ABOUT
SOMEONE
YOU
KNOW.

PEOPLE
ALWAYS
PROJECT
THEIR OWN
IMAGININGS
...





WOULD
YOU LIKE
TO MEET
THE FLAME
CHAMPION,
HUGO?



!!



YES.
I THINK
YOU NEED
TO SEE
HIM.

YOU
ACTUALLY
HAVE THE
ABILITY
TO MEET
HIM...



THE
FLAME
CHAMPION
IS
HERE...?



THE
FLAME
CHAMPION
IS
THROUGH
HERE.

IF YOU
HAVE THE
COURAGE
TO FACE
THE FLAME
CHAMPION
AND THE
TRUTH
ABOUT HIM,
GO AHEAD.





WH-WHERE
AM I...?



THIS IS THE
FLAME
CHAMPION'S
ROOM.



HE IS
RIGHT
THERE.



BUT, THERE
IS NO ONE
HERE...

THIS
IS--!

!!

YES.

THIS IS
THE FLAME
CHAMPION.

AND
I...AM HIS
BELOVED.



HOWEVER,
THE RUNE'S
POWER AND ITS
OWNER'S LIFE
ARE NOT
SEPARATE.
ONCE THE
BEARER
REMOVES THE
RUNE, HE IS
NO LONGER
IMMUNE TO
AGING.

MANY
TIMES, HE
WISHED TO
THROW THE
THE RUNE
AWAY.

ONCE THE
TREATY HAD
BEEN SIGNED
WITH
HARMONIA,
PEACE CAME
TO THE
GRASSLANDS.

HOWEVER,
IN TIMES OF
PEACE, HIS
POWER
WEIGHED
TOO HEAVILY
UPON HIM...

THE
FLAME
CHAMPION
ISN'T
AROUND
ANY-
MORE...?

HOWEVER, HE
DIDN'T DO THAT;
HE THREW AWAY
THE POWER OF
THE RUNE.

IN FACT, HE
CHOSE TO
GROW OLD AS
A MAN—AND
DIE WITH ME.

SOMEHOW
THE POWER
OF THE
RUNE HAD
TO BE
SEALED UP
FOR THE
BEARER TO
GO ON
LIVING.

PERHAPS
ALL BEARERS
OF THE TRUE
RUNES CAME
TO THIS SAME
CONCLUSION.



THEN
WHY
DID YOU
BRING
ME TO
THIS
PLACE?!



YOU SHALL
BECOME
THE FLAME
CHAMPION.



AS WITH THE
HARMONIAN
INVASION,
HISTORY
FROM 50
YEARS AGO
SEEMS TO BE
REPEATING
ITSELF.



...HUH?



IF YOU
HAVE THE
WILL TO DO
IT, TAKE
THAT ROD
IN YOUR
HAND!

THE GRASS-
LANDS NEED
THE FLAME
CHAMPION.



THE
POWER TO
PROTECT
EVERY-
ONE--



THE HERO
WHO CAN
SAVE THE
GRASS-
LANDS...



WILL I
BECOME...
THE FLAME
CHAMPION?



STOP!!



...GEPPOSI

I WAS
AFRAID OF
THIS--AND
NOW I SEE
THAT I HAD
REASON
TO BE.





SO, SANA,
YOU WANT
TO PASS ON
THE TRUE
RUNE...?

DO YOU
KNOW HOW
HEAVY A
BURDEN
THAT IS FOR
SOMEONE
TO BEAR?!

BUT IF
THESE
RUNES CAN
HELP THESE
LANDS...



I KNOW
BOTH THE
POWER THE
TRUE RUNE IS
CAPABLE OF
AND THE
IMPORTANCE
OF THIS
QUEST...

OF
COURSE,
I KNOW.

I DIDN'T
ASK ABOUT
HELPING
THESE
LANDS.



W-WON
TERRIFYING
IT IS FOR
THEM ALL!



HE IS
STILL
JUST A
KID!



HH--



WHO THE
HECK DO
YOU THINK
YOU ARE?
SUDDENLY
APPEARING
LIKE THAT!



HOW COULD
YOU KNOW
WHAT
TERRIBLE
TROUBLES
THE
GRASSLANDS
FACE?



THE OTHER
CHIEFS
ARE IN
AGREEMENT.

THIS BOY
HAS THE
CHARACTER
TO BE OUR
HERO.
I HAVE
WITNESSED
IT.



I-I'M
NOT A
KID!

I'M
HUGO, A
KARAYAN
WARRIOR!



AND
I BELIEVE
THIS
YOUNG
MAN WANTS
IT TOO.

WE NEED
A NEW
FLAME
CHAMPION
FOR THE
COMING
WAR.



YOU WON'T
NEED
ANYTHING
LIKE A
FLAME
CHAMPION.

YOU HAVE
ENOUGH
WITH WYATT
AND I, WHO
ALREADY
BEAR RUNES.



COME
TO
THINK
OF IT...



THIS IS
GEDDOS. IN
THE PAST,
HE FOUGHT
WITH US
AS A FIRE
BRINGER.

THIS GUY
COULDN'T
BE--!!



WHY DON'T
YOU ADMIT
THAT YOUR
STUBBOR-
NESS HAS
CAUSED
HIM SO
MUCH
ANGUISH?

GEDDOS...
YOU'RE
STILL
TAKEN IN
BY THE
RUNES.



71
TELL
ME
WHAT
...?



MAYBE
IT WAS
BECAUSE
IT WAS
YOU...
THAT HE
DIDN'T
TELL
YOU?



HE DIDN'T...
HE DIDN'T
TELL YOU.



THE
NAME'S
HUGO.
RIGHT...?



LET ME
ASK YOU,
HUGO--

--HOW MUCH
PAIN DO YOU
THINK IS
BESTOWED
UPON YOU
BY THE TRUE
RUNES OF
THE FIVE
ELEMENTS?



WE'D
LIKE TO
HEAR
THIS
STORY
TOO.

I...
I...

IF I COULD
SAVE THE
GRASS-
LANDS
AND MY
FRIENDS,
I DON'T
CARE HOW
MUCH
PAIN--







CERTAINLY
THE POWER
OF THE
RUNES IS
TOO MUCH
FOR A
PERSON.

IN FACT, YOU
SHOULD STEP
AWAY FROM
THE RUNE...
NOW! OR
YOU'LL TASTE
A GREAT DEAL
OF
SUFFERING
WITHOUT
EVER GETTING
YOUR HANDS
ON IT!



...WHEN
SOME
INNOCENT
WOULD
FOOLISHLY
LET DOWN
THE
BARRIER...
AND NOW,
HERE
WE ARE.

WE WERE
JUST
WAITING
FOR THE
TIME...



WHAT
ARE
YOU
DOING
HERE
--P



GET
DOWN,
YOU
TWO!



And if we should fan the
dying embers in the ashes...

Saikioden III
~~~The Successor of Fate~~~  
Continued in Volume 5



--When creating a comic, the clothes and necessities become simplified.

Hugo

--Hugo has to be easy to draw, since he's the main character.



Parts Changed

- His clothes' pattern
- His chest
- His sock at his waist
- His necklace
- His knife's scabbard
- His wristbands and anklets

# Hugo

Parts Changed

Her collar

Here

The number of lines here

Her sword and her scabbard



# Chris

Pattern of her skirt



--Kotami's staff would like to see Chris's kind side; even in battle, be careful not to show her with a stern face.

--Knight Captain Galahad (does not appear in game) Making an outside appearance, as has been arranged through Kotami.



Sir Galahad, old Knight Captain

(Imagined)

Dandy



Pants Changed

Number of his buttons

Tilt of his sword

## Geddoe

Parts of him (such as his sword and his boots) were simplified, and he was always meant to be a bit scruffy. The main points when drawing Geddoe are his eyebrows.

Number of stitches  
embroidering his  
boots



## Karaya & Zexen



In the game, the main characters' statures are all set, but in the comic, there will be a number of changes in relation to their power.



The vast Grasslands, home to various people.

Long ago, the Six Clans gathered together to fight the Zexen Federation over border disputes. The Holy Kingdom of Harmonia also sought control of all these lands. These three groups have long been struggling with each other for power.



The World of Suikoden III

**Suikoden**  
幻想空間

This is the fourth volume. I'm truly sorry to have kept you waiting! These days, I have to get myself back on top of my super-full schedule. I've been falling behind; I've really just been caged-in at home.

Well, I really haven't prepared an epilogue, so why don't I give you some insight into the story for a change? This time, a lot of preparation went into making the comic a bit more individual. For one thing, we have the whole "fate" discussion. This was added as a sort of religious term to strengthen the idea that the Alma-Kinan are very religious. Perhaps if you consider the actions of all 108 stars, what you get in the end is this sense of "fate."

Another thing special to the manga was the composition of the Harmonian army. Since the composition of the army is deeply related to the doctrine of that country (how it feels about war), I just created it all as I saw fit. Well, I guess this is a manga, after all, not the game...

There are three soldiers in a small division of mantor trainers, triple that in a middle one, and triple that in a large one. I had to decide how many there were; I thought, "I guess there were about two large divisions this time?"

And as for how "magic" (which doesn't exist in reality) would be used in battle, well, I'll leave that for the volumes to come, I believe. There are still characters who haven't shown up yet that'll use it...

I wish I could put them all in. Well, goodbye. I really am giving it my best...



I want to draw more to indulge myself because there are still some characters who haven't been part of the plot yet (created when those first plans were drawn up way back when).  
Like Sgt. Joe (laughs).



# Suikoden

幻想水滸伝

The battle between Geddoe and Yaber continues...and this time, Yaber won't be surprised by Geddoe's powers!

No matter who wins, it seems neither combatant wants Hago to inherit the True Flame Rune... but what does Hago want?

